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BROWN & MICHAELS, PC 400 M & T BANK BUILDING 118 NORTH TIOGA ST ITHACA, NY 14850			EXAMINER VAN DOREN, BETH	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3623	

DATE MAILED: 11/23/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/021,375

Applicant(s)

RICHARDS ET AL.

Examiner

Beth Van Doren

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 October 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 10/30/01 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 20020222.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. The following is a non-final, first office action on the merits. Claims 1-18 are pending.

Claim Objections

2. Claims 6 and 14 are objected to because of the following informalities:
grammatical error. Claim 6, in lines 1-2 of the claim, recites “wherein the step of selling the shipping platforms comprising the steps of:”, which should more appropriately be -- wherein the step of selling the shipping platforms further comprises the steps of:--.
Appropriate correction is required. Claim 14 recites the same limitation and therefore contains the same deficiency. Appropriate correction is required.

3. Claim 14 is further objected to because it is a substantial duplicate of claim 6. Applicant is advised that should claim 6 be found allowable, claim 14 will be objected to under 37 CFR 1.75 as being a substantial duplicate thereof. When two claims in an application are duplicates or else are so close in content that they both cover the same thing, despite a slight difference in wording, it is proper after allowing one claim to object to the other as being a substantial duplicate of the allowed claim. See MPEP § 706.03(k). Examiner believes that Applicant’s intent was for claim 14 to be dependent on claim 12, and it has been construed as such in the art rejection that follows.
Clarification is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

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Claims 1, 2, 3, 5, and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

5. Claim 1 recites the limitation “issuing an identification for the shipping platform” in line 3. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. While the preamble recites “retrieving shipping platforms from downstream receivers”, it is not clear if the single shipping platform in line 3 is one of these shipping platforms referred to in the preamble. Clarification is required. For examination purposes, the limitation has been construed as --issuing an identification for a shipping platform--.

6. Further, claim 1 recites “accepting a listing from an end recipient of shipping platforms for sale” in lines 6-7. It is unclear from the claim language as whether the single shipping platform of line 3 is one of the shipping platforms of the listing of lines 6-7. Therefore, claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting essential elements and/or steps, such omission amounting to a gap between the steps. See MPEP § 2172.01. The omitted steps and/or elements define the relationship between the shipping platform of line 3 and the shipping platforms of lines 6-7. Clarification is required.

7. Claim 2 recites the limitation “a symbol representing the method of this invention” in line 2 of the claim. This limitation does not have a defined scope, as the meets and bounds of the language “the method of this invention” are not known and specifically defined. For examination purposes, this limitation has been construed as --a symbol representing a coordinator--, which is consistent with the language utilized in claim 12, element b. Correction is required.

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8. Claim 3 recites the limitation "wherein the step of marking the shipping platforms further comprises" in lines 1-2 of this claim. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim as neither claim 3 or claim 1, the claim on which claim 3 depends, contain any recitation of a step of marking the shipping platforms. For examination purposes, examiner has construed claim 3 to be dependent on claim 2.

Clarification is required.

9. Claim 5 recites the limitation "the coordinator" in line 2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim as neither claim 5 nor claim 1, the claim on which claim 5 depends, contain any recitation of a coordinator. For examination purposes, the limitation has been construed as --a coordinator--. Correction is required.

10. Claim 12 recites "requesting a coordinator to issue an identification for the shipping platform" in lines 3-4. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. Though the preamble recites "reuse of a shipper's shipping platforms", it is not clear in the claims if the single shipping platform in lines 3-4 is one of these shipping platforms referred to in the preamble. Clarification is required. For examination purposes, the limitation has been construed as --requesting a coordinator to issue an identification for the shipping platform--.

11. Further, claim 12 recites "c) shipping products on the plurality of shipping platforms" and "d) accepting notification from the coordinator of a plurality shipping platforms which had been listed". It is unclear, based on the language used in the claims, as to whether these are the same plurality of shipping platforms or two groups of shipping platforms. Therefore, based on this and the antecedent basis problem of claim 12

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addressed above, it is unclear in claim 12 as to the relationship of all the shipping platforms recited in the claim. Clarification is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

12. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-4, 7-13, and 15-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tradeout.com in view of Canadian Pallet Council (CPC) (www.cpcpallet.com). The following disclose the aspects and features of Tradeout.com:

- i. Screenshots of Tradeout.com (www.tradeout.com) retrieved from archive.org, dated 08/28/2000 (referred to herein as reference A);
- ii. Article "Tradeout Sells Assets Online" from Business Wire, dated 06/21/2000 (referred to herein as reference B).

13. As per claim 1, Tradeout.com teaches a method for retrieving shipping platforms from downstream receivers to a shipper through a coordinator for reuse, comprising the steps of:

- a) identifying, by category, a shipping platform for sale (See reference A, page 1, section 1, page 6, section 2, reference B, page 1, sections 1-2, wherein a shipping platform is identified on the site by information, such as location, category, etc., and identified as for sale);

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b) creating a remotely accessible file describing the shipping platform on a computer site (See reference A, page 3, section 1, page 6, sections 1-2, page 9, section 2, page 10, section 1, and reference B, page 1, section 1, wherein a shipping platform is posted on the website of Tradeout.com, the file accessible on the site);

c) accepting a listing from an end recipient of shipping platforms for sale at the computer site (See reference A, page 3, section 1, page 6, sections 1-2, page 9, section 2, page 10, section 1, and reference B, page 1, section 1, wherein a shipping platform is listed (i.e. posted) on the site for sale);

d) notifying the shipper of the listed shipping platforms (See reference A, page 6, sections 1-2, page 9, section 1, wherein the shipper (i.e. buyer who needs a shipping container) is made aware of the shipping platform, such as by informing the shipper of new listings by category).

However, Tradeout.com does not expressly disclose and Canadian Pallet Council (CPC) discloses issuing an identification for a shipping platform (See page 1, section 1, page 5, section 1, page 8, diagram, wherein the shipping platforms (i.e. pallets) are issued an identification).

Both Tradeout.com and CPC disclose means for the cost effective interchange of shipping platforms. Tradeout.com discloses an Internet website for the remarketing of assets including shipping containers, the assets being labeled by category in the system. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include issuing an identification for a shipping platform in the system of Tradeout.com in order to more efficiently identify assets to the buyers that meet the buyers' specifications. See page 6, section 1, of Tradeout.com, which discusses the use

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of the system to find needed products that match the buyer's desire in a fast and cost effective manner.

14. As per claim 2, Tradeout.com does not expressly disclose and CPC discloses, after step (a), of marking the identification and a symbol representing a coordinator onto a plurality of the shipping platforms (See page 1, section 1, page 5, section 1, page 8, diagram, wherein the shipping platforms (i.e. pallets) are issued an identification, which is marketed on the asset with a symbol and CPC).

Both Tradeout.com and CPC disclose means for the cost effective interchange of shipping platforms. Tradeout.com discloses an Internet website for the remarketing of assets including shipping containers, the assets being labeled by category in the system. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include issuing an identification for a shipping platform in the system of Tradeout.com in order to more efficiently identify assets to the buyers that meet the buyers' specifications. See page 6, section 1, of Tradeout.com, which discusses the use of the system to find needed products that match the buyer's desire in a fast and cost effective manner.

15. As per claim 3, Tradeout.com does not expressly disclose marking the shipping platforms with a computer address for the computer site on the shipping platforms. CPC discloses marking the identification and a symbol representing a coordinator onto a plurality of the shipping platforms (See page 1, section 1, page 5, section 1, page 8, diagram, wherein the shipping platforms (i.e. pallets) are issued an identification, which is marketed on the asset with a symbol and CPC). However, while CPC discloses

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marking the shipping platform with a logo, CPC does not expressly disclose that the logo includes marking a computer address for the computer site on the shipping platforms.

Both Tradeout.com and CPC disclose means for the cost effective interchange of shipping platforms. Tradeout.com discloses an Internet website for the remarketing of assets including shipping containers, the assets being labeled by category in the system. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include issuing an identification for a shipping platform in the system of Tradeout.com in order to more efficiently identify assets to the buyers that meet the buyers' specifications. See page 6, section 1, of Tradeout.com, which discusses the use of the system to find needed products that match the buyer's desire in a fast and cost effective manner.

Furthermore, CPC also discloses the reuse and exchange of shipping platforms, the platforms being marked by a logo for identification. Labeling a product with a logo including a website address is well known in e-commerce as a way to pass on information to a user concerning the product. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include a website address in the logo of CPC in order to increase the recognition and knowledge of the platform by providing a means to identify and locate information concerning the platform. See page 1 and page 5, section 1, of CPC, which discusses using logos for easy recognition. See page 2 and page 7, wherein the website of CPC disseminates information concerning the product, the product identifiable by a logo.

16. As per claim 4, Tradeout.com teaches the step, after step (d), of coordinating shipment of the shipping platforms from the end recipient to the shipper (See reference

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A, page 3, section 1, and page 4, section 1, and reference B, page 1, section 1, wherein the system coordinates the shipment of the platforms from seller to buyer by providing the seller and buyer with contact information and the means to transact the sale).

17. As per claims 7, Tradeout.com discloses creating a file describing the shipping platform on a computer site (See reference A, page 3, section 1, page 6, sections 1-2, page 9, section 2, page 10, section 1, and reference B, page 1, section 1, wherein a shipping platform is posted on the website of Tradeout.com, the file accessible on the site). However, Tradeout.com does not expressly disclose that this file created in step (b) comprises information on repair standards for the shipping platforms, wherein the shipping platforms are repaired in accordance with the repair standards in the file.

CPC discloses presenting and storing information on repair standards for the shipping platforms on a computer site, wherein the shipping platforms are repaired in accordance with the repair standards (See page 2, section 1, page 4, section 1, page 6, section 1, page 7, page 8, which disclose repair information and standards, wherein qualified persons repair the shipping platforms in accordance with the standards).

Both Tradeout.com and CPC disclose means for the cost effective interchange of shipping platforms. Tradeout.com discloses an Internet website for the remarketing of used assets, including shipping containers. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include repair standard in the information included about the used shipping platform sold via the Tradeout.com system in order to increase buyer confidence in buying a used item by presenting the standards and ensuring that the seller is a qualified seller. See Tradeout.com, reference B, page 1, section 2, discussing the importance of matching qualified buyers and qualified sellers.

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18. As per claim 9, Tradeout.com discloses creating a file describing the shipping platform on a computer site (See reference A, page 3, section 1, page 6, sections 1-2, page 9, section 2, page 10, section 1, and reference B, page 1, section 1, wherein a shipping platform is posted on the website of Tradeout.com, the file accessible on the site). However, Tradeout.com does not expressly disclose and CPC discloses that this file includes repair standards that comprise at least one item selected from a list comprising: a description of repair policy; general guidelines; stringer board repairs; excessive wear and tear and contamination; nails and hardware; and lumber that can be used to repair the shipping platforms (See page 2, section 1, page 4, section 1, page 6, section 1, page 7, page 8, which discusses the uniform specifications of the pallet, used in repairs, such as repair policy, contamination, nails and hardware, etc.).

Both Tradeout.com and CPC disclose means for the cost effective interchange of shipping platforms. Tradeout.com discloses an Internet website for the remarketing of used assets, including shipping containers. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include repair standard in the information included about the used shipping platform sold via the Tradeout.com system in order to increase buyer confidence in buying a used item by presenting the standards and ensuring that the seller is a qualified seller. See Tradeout.com, reference B, page 1, section 2, discussing the importance of matching qualified buyers and qualified sellers

19. As per claim 10, Tradeout.com discloses identifying, by category, a shipping platform for sale (See reference A, page 1, section 1, page 6, section 2, reference B, page 1, sections 1-2, wherein a shipping platform is posted on the site and identified as for sale). However, Tradeout.com does not expressly disclose issuing an identification, this

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issued identification based on at least one factor selected from a list comprising: a type of the shipping platform; and a size of the shipping platform.

CPC discloses issuing an identification for a shipping platform, wherein the identification confirms that the shipping platform is a specific type of shipping platform with a specific size (See page 1, section 1, page 5, section 1, page 8, wherein the shipping platforms (i.e. pallets) are issued an identification verifying the size and type).

Both Tradeout.com and CPC disclose means for the cost effective interchange of shipping platforms. Tradeout.com discloses an Internet website for the remarketing of assets including shipping containers, the assets being labeled by category in the system. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include issuing an identification for a shipping platform, the identification confirming the category of the shipping platform, in the system of Tradeout.com in order to more efficiently identify assets to the buyers that meet the buyers' specifications. See page 6, section 1, of Tradeout.com, which discusses the use of the system to find needed products that match the buyer's desire in a fast and cost effective manner.

20. As per claim 11, Tradeout.com discloses wherein the file created in step (b) comprises at least one item selected from a list comprising: the identification issued to the shipping platform; a shipper profile; an image of the shipping platform; repair specifications for the shipping platform; shipping platform specifications; and the annual usage of the shipping platform (See reference A, page 1, section 1, page 6, section 2, reference B, page 1, sections 1-2, wherein a shipping platform specifications are identified on the site with information concerning the platform).

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21. As per claim 12, Tradeout.com discloses a method for recycling and reuse of a shipper's shipping platforms from downstream receivers through a coordinator, comprising the steps of:

a) requesting a coordinator to identify, by category, a shipping platform and to create a remotely accessible file describing the shipping platform on a computer site associated with the coordinator (See reference A, page 1, section 1, page 6, section 2, reference B, page 1, sections 1-2, wherein a shipping platform is identified by information such as location, category, etc. See reference A, page 3, section 1, page 6, section 1, page 9, section 2, page 10, section 1, wherein a shipping platform is posted on the website of Tradeout.com, the file accessible on the site);

c) shipping products on the plurality of shipping platforms (See reference B, page 1, section 1, wherein the plurality of shipping platforms are used);

d) accepting notification from the coordinator of a plurality of shipping platforms which had been listed by at least one end recipient at the computer site associated with the coordinator (See reference A, page 6, sections 1-2, page 9, section 1, wherein the shipper (i.e. buyer who needs a shipping container) is made aware of the shipping platform, such as by informing the shipper of new listings by category); and

e) receiving at least some of the plurality of shipping platforms listed in step (d) (See reference A, page 9, sections 1-2, reference B, page 1, sections 1-2, wherein a buyer receives at least some of the shipping platforms listed on the site).

However, Tradeout.com does not expressly disclose and Canadian Pallet Council (CPC) discloses the coordinator issuing an identification for a shipping platform and b) marking the identification and a symbol representing the coordinator onto a plurality of

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the shipping platforms (See page 1, section 1, page 5, section 1, page 8, diagram, wherein the shipping platforms are issued an identification and marked on the platforms).

Both Tradeout.com and CPC disclose means for the cost effective interchange of shipping platforms. Tradeout.com discloses an Internet website for the remarketing of assets including shipping containers, the assets being labeled by category in the system. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include issuing an identification for a shipping platform in the system of Tradeout.com in order to more efficiently identify assets to the buyers that meet the buyers' specifications. See page 6, section 1, of Tradeout.com, which discusses the use of the system to find needed products that match the buyer's desire in a fast and cost effective manner.

22. Claims 13, 15, and 16-18 are substantially similar to claims 3, 7, and 9-11, respectively, and are therefore rejected using the same art and rationale set forth above.

23. Claims 5-6 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tradeout.com in view of Canadian Pallet Council (CPC) (www.cpcpallet.com), as applied to claims 1, 4, and 12 above, and further in view of SJF Material Handling, Inc. (www.sjf.com).

24. As per claim 5, Tradeout.com teaches selling the shipping platforms by the end recipient via a coordinator, wherein the coordinator is paid a listing fee and a commission by the end recipient (See reference A, page 8, sections 1-2, and reference B, page 1, section 1, wherein the coordinator is paid by the end recipient). However, Tradeout.com

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does not expressly disclose, nor does CPC, that the selling platforms are sold to a coordinator by the end recipient.

SJF Material Handling, Inc., discloses material handling equipment, such as tote bins, baskets, and boxes, being sold to the coordinator by the end recipient (See page 3, sections 1-2, and page 8, section 1).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine Tradeout.com and CPC in the manner set forth above in the rejection of claim 1.

Tradeout.com, CPC, and SJF Material Handling, Inc. all disclose means for the cost effective interchange of used shipping platforms via a coordinator. Furthermore, Tradeout.com discloses the coordinator receiving sales and listing money from the end recipient. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to sell the shipping platform directly to a coordinator in order to in order to reduce the labor on the seller of the shipping platform (i.e. the end recipient) by having the e-commerce site take on more responsibilities, thus increasing the benefit to the seller of Tradeout.com. See page 6, section 2, which discusses the benefits of the system to the seller, including reducing labor.

25. As per claim 6, Tradeout.com discloses:

the shipper paying an end recipient a sales amount for the shipping platforms (See reference A, page 3, section 1, and page 4, section 1, and reference B, page 1, section 1, wherein the shipper pays the seller, with the coordinator being the middleman).

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the end recipient paying the coordinator a percentage of the sale amount (See reference A, page 8, sections 1-2, and reference B, page 1, section 1, wherein the coordinator is paid by the end recipient).

However, Tradeout.com does not expressly disclose, nor does CPC, that the selling platforms are sold to a coordinator by the end recipient, wherein the shipper pays the a coordinator a sales amount, the coordinator paying the end recipient a percentage of the sale amount.

SJF Material Handling, Inc., discloses material handling equipment, such as tote bins, baskets, and boxes, being sold to the coordinator by the end recipient (See page 3, sections 1-2, and page 8, section 1).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine Tradeout.com and CPC in the manner set forth above in the rejection of claim 1.

Tradeout.com, CPC, and SJF Material Handling, Inc. all disclose means for the cost effective interchange of used shipping platforms via a coordinator. Furthermore, Tradeout.com discloses the coordinator receiving sales and listing money from the end recipient. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to sell the shipping platform directly to a coordinator and have the coordinator pay the end recipient in order to reduce the labor on the seller of the shipping platform (i.e. the end recipient) by having the e-commerce site take on more responsibilities, thus increasing the benefit to the seller of Tradeout.com. See page 6, section 2, which discusses the benefits of the system to the seller, including reducing labor.

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26. Claim 14 is substantially similar to claim 6 and is therefore rejected using the same art and rationale set forth above.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Singer et al. (U.S. 5,953,234) discloses recycling empty pallet stacks.

Radican (U.S. 6,148,291) teaches monitoring and controlling shipping containers, with the ability to retrieve containers.

“Materials Handling.com” (Warehousing Management) discloses the materials handling industry on the web, including the Internet sites of companies in this industry.

LeBlanc (“Outlook for Third Party Management: Growth and Change”) teaches third party pallet management, recyclers, pallet poolers, and features of different players of these industries.

PalletNet (www.palletnet.com) discloses reverse distribution service and recovery, repair, and recycling services for pallet and container companies.

“PalletOnline revolutionizes shipping and logistics” (PR Newswire) discloses PalletOnline, a website that is a solution for the tracking and management of pallets and reusable containers and includes a buy/sell network and repair and recycling centers.

PalletOnline (www.palletonline.com) discloses a web-based pallet tracking software that includes a recycler program.

Ongweoweh (www.ongweoweh.com) discloses manufacturing and distributing pallets, including the pallet exchange company that manages a pool of pallets.

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“Track Those Pallets” (Modern Materials Handling) discloses computer software for monitoring the transfer of pallets from manufacturer to consumer and back.

Healey (“Extraordinary Times for Pallet Distributors”) discusses pallet management and retrieval and recovery systems.


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Beth Van Doren whose telephone number is (571) 272-6737. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner’s supervisor, Tariq Hafiz can be reached on (571) 272-6729. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

bvd

November 10, 2005


Beth Van Doren
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